**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A therapeutic HCV vaccine composition consisting of ~~comprising~~ a therapeutically effective amount of at least one HCV single or specific oligomeric envelope E1 protein or a part thereof; and at least one of a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, adjuvant or vehicle.

17. (Previously Presented) A therapeutic HCV vaccine composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a combination of at least two HCV single or specific oligomeric envelope E1 proteins or parts thereof wherein said at least two E1 proteins or parts thereof are derived from different HCV genotypes, subtypes or isolates; and at least one of a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, adjuvant or vehicle.

Claims 18-19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) The therapeutic HCV vaccine composition according to claim 17 wherein said E1 protein is E1s.

21. (Previousy Presented) The therapeutic HCV vaccine composition according claim 17 wherein said E1 protein or part thereof is produced by a recombinant host.

22. (Previously Presented) The therapeutic HCV vaccine composition according to claim 21 wherein said recombinant host is a recombinant mammalian cell, a recombinant yeast cell or a recombinant virus.

23. (Previously Presented) The therapeutic HCV vaccine composition according to claim 17 which is therapeutically effective in a mammal infected with a HCV genotype or subtype homologous to the HCV genotype or subtype, or HCV genotypes or subtypes, from which said E1 protein or proteins, or parts thereof, are derived.

24. (Previously Presented) The therapeutic HCV vaccine composition according to claim 17 which is therapeutically effective in a mammal infected with a HCV genotype or subtype heterologous the HCV genotype or subtype, or HCV genotypes or subtypes, from which said E1 protein or proteins, or parts thereof, are derived.

25. (Previously Presented) The therapeutic HCV vaccine composition according to claim 17 wherein the cysteines of said HCV envelope E1 proteins or parts thereof are blocked.

26. (Previously Presented) The therapeutic HCV vaccine composition according to claim 17 to which said HCV envelope E1 proteins or parts thereof are added as viral-like particles.

27. (Withdrawn) A method for inducing an immune response in a chronic HCV-infected mammal comprising administering a therapeutic HCV vaccine composition according to claims 16 to 17 ~~any of claims 15 to 17~~ to said mammal.

28. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 27 wherein said immune response is a humoral and/or a cellular immune response.

29. (Withdrawn) A method for clearing HCV viral antigens from the liver of an HCV-infected mammal comprising administering a therapeutic HCV vaccine composition according to claims 16 to 17~~any of claims 15 to 17~~ to said mammal.

30. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 29 wherein said HCV viral antigens are HCV Core and/or HCV E2 antigens.

31. (Withdrawn) A method for normalizing the levels of liver enzymes in the serum of a HCV-infected mammal comprising administering a therapeutic HCV vaccine composition according to claims 16 to 17 ~~any of claims 15 to 17~~ to said mammal.

32. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 31 wherein said liver enzymes are ALT and/or gammaGT.

33. (Withdrawn) A method for improving the histology of the liver of a HCV-infected mammal comprising administering a therapeutic HCV vaccine composition according to claims 16 to 17~~any of claims 15 to 17~~ to said mammal.

34. (Withdrawn) A method for improving liver disease in a HCV-infected mammal comprising administering a therapeutic HCV vaccine composition according to claims 16 to 17~~any of claims 15 to 17~~ to said mammal.

35. (Withdrawn) A method for improving liver inflammation in a HCV-infected mammal comprising administering a therapeutic HCV vaccine composition according to claims 16 to 17~~any of claims 15 to 17~~ to said mammal.

36. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a mammal infected with HCV comprising administering a therapeutic HCV vaccine composition according to claim 16 or 17~~claim 15~~.

37. (Previously Presented) A method of treating a mammal infected with HCV comprising administering a therapeutic HCV vaccine composition according to any of claims 16 to 17.

38. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 37 wherein said mammal is infected with a HCV of a genotype or subtype homologous to the HCV genotype or subtype, or genotypes or subtypes, from which the E1 proteins or parts thereof comprised in said composition are derived.

39. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 37 wherein said mammal is infected with a HCV of a genotype or subtype heterologous to the HCV genotype or subtype, or genotypes or subtypes, from which the E1 proteins or parts thereof comprised in said composition are derived.

40. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 36 wherein said mammal is a human.

41. (Withdrawn) The therapeutic HCV vaccine composition according to claim 23 wherein said mammal is a human.

42. (Withdrawn) The therapeutic HCV vaccine composition according to claim 24 wherein said mammal is a human.

43. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 37 wherein said mammal is a human.